Funding a master's or PhD at KAUST, HBKU, MBZUAI, Khalifa University and NYU Abu Dhabi

This guide is for you if you are applying for a **master's or PhD** at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI), Khalifa University or NYU Abu Dhabi.

Current amounts, with units, conditions and checked dates: https://scholarmena.com/guides/gulf-phd-stipends/#live-funding

Three kinds of funding

- **A fellowship that comes with admission.** At KAUST, admitted students normally receive the KAUST Fellowship (students with outside sponsorship may not). It covers tuition, a living stipend, accommodation, health insurance, and relocation support for your first move and your return home. Details come with your offer.
- **A tuition waiver plus a stipend for assistant work.** At HBKU, the tuition waiver depends on the programme, from a full waiver for PhD programmes to none for some master's programmes. Monthly stipends depend on your category (Qatari, international or local) and go to full-time students who work as research or teaching assistants; HBKU states that they depend on the availability of

funds. HBKU does not cover housing, and it pays one inbound and one outbound ticket for international students.

- **Packages stated per programme.** MBZUAI, Khalifa University and NYU Abu Dhabi describe their packages on their own pages. Our live cards print only figures that have a unit (per month or per year) on the official page.

Questions to ask before you accept

1. Is the stipend paid monthly, and from which month?
2. Does it depend on work as a research or teaching assistant, and for how many hours a week?
3. Is it guaranteed for the whole programme, or does it depend on available funds?
4. Does it change if you are married or have children? (At HBKU, stipends do not vary by marital status or dependants.)
5. What is not covered: housing, health insurance for family, visa costs?
6. Can you hold another scholarship or a job at the same time?

Where to read

- KAUST: admissions.kaust.edu.sa (Fees and funding)
- HBKU: hbku.edu.qa (Scholarship)
- MBZUAI: mbzuai.ac.ae/admissions-aid (Admissions and aid)
- Khalifa University: ku.ac.ae (Postgraduate scholarships)
- NYU Abu Dhabi: nyuad.nyu.edu (PhD programs)

> **Our advice:** compare offers in the same unit (per month or per year) and in the currency the university uses; do not convert in your head and compare.

Sources

Our editors read these official pages on 10 Nov 2026. If anything differs, the official page is the reference.

1. KAUST Fellowship coverage; external sponsorship note; details with the offer
   https://admissions.kaust.edu.sa/fees-funding
2. HBKU waiver by programme; stipend categories; RA/TA; "depend on the availability of funds"; no housing; tickets; no variation by marital status
   https://www.hbku.edu.qa/en/scholarship
3. NYU Abu Dhabi: financial aid (bachelor's) and PhD programmes
   https://nyuad.nyu.edu
4. MBZUAI: admissions and aid
   https://mbzuai.ac.ae/admissions-aid
5. Khalifa University: postgraduate scholarships
   https://ku.ac.ae